



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

Idaho Master Naturalist Program Chapter Leaders/Board Members:

I am pleased to announce the dates for the first Idaho Master Naturalist Program state conference at Harriman State Park on September 18-20th, 2015, with a pre-conference meeting for chapter leaders. (These dates are reserved, but not paid for).

I have been in contact with several of you about this conference and I appreciate all your enthusiastic input and wonderful ideas. I don't want this to be my conference; I want it to be yours, *so at this time, I would like to establish a conference committee*. I am happy to facilitate the conversations that need to take place for this all to be put together.

I feel anyone can be a member of the planning committee, but we might want to limit it to 5-10 people. Those people could have other IMNs working with them as sub-committees. I have one person here in Boise who is an experienced event planner and I will probably include her. I might also recommend, unless they object☺ to having Mary VanFleet and Kyle Babbitt, as well as Tony Appelkans on the planning committee.

Perhaps the majority of conference committee members should be from the Henry's Fork Chapter and the Upper-Snake Chapter, but we would certainly accept input from a representative from the Pend Oreille Chapter and the Coeur d'Alene Chapter if there is interest. Please send me names of interested people by November 10th. Then, we will begin our group emails and planning.

My goals for the conference include, but are not limited to: (and are not listed in order of importance).

- Continuing education (a MN could get all their continuing education done here)
- Celebration
- Awards/Recognition
- Field trips/recreation
- Social time
- Sharing of Chapter attributes

The first task of the committee will be to establish an official theme. I feel with my goals listed above and other goals that the committee might add, it will be very easy to come up with a theme that is broad, yet poignant. I have no doubt we will fill the time with wonderful activities...I think our problem will be narrowing down the options.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you and spending time with you all! SARA

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